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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 1, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

FROM:

JAMES T. McINTYRE

SUBJECT:

Administration Support for the Fiscal Year 1979 Budget

The budget has been on the Hill for about one month now, with Congressional hearings taking place almost daily. The Budget Committees will be considering the overall Budget beginning at the end of March, with House Appropriations subcommittee mark-ups commencing in early April. Major authorizing legislation affecting the FY 1979 Budget is being considered simultaneously by the Congress.

In reviewing the Congressional budget cycle last year, I have identified several problem areas influencing enactment of the President's recommendations. These include:

- Slowness in developing the Administration's position on the major appropriations bills, with a simultaneous focus on all of the component parts;
- Lack of appropriate coordination and communication between the Executive Office of the President and agencies which prevents us from responding on a timely basis on major issues that require the development of a strategy or an Administration policy.
- Tendency of Executive Branch personnel to disregard the significant budgetary impact of authorizing bills, which exert upward pressure on the budget (and especially through backdoor financing and entitlement programs).

The President would like you to work with him to minimize the impact of these problems during the FY 1979 Budget period. As you know, the budget plans a \$61 billion deficit which is constantly threatened

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by specific increases. We can only contain Federal spending by working together.

This year, in conjunction with the White House Congressional Liaison office, we will be following the major appropriations bills and authorizing legislation with significant budgetary impact and will be asking for participation from both your budget/policy staff and your Congressional Liaison office. The Program Associate Directors from the Office of Management and Budget, White House and Office of Management and Budget Congressional Liaison, the Domestic Policy staff, and the National Security Council staff will also participate.

We hope to identify problems at their early stages, prior to subcommittee mark-ups, and then develop strategies to work out these problems in a unified, thoughtful way so as to maximize our ability to sustain the President's budget recommendations. This process will also provide a forum for considering all the parts of key spending bills, which often cut across the jurisdictions of several departments.

We will be contacting you shortly to begin this process, and would welcome any suggestions you might have on the points noted above. If you have any questions, please contact me, Bo Cutter, or Hubert Harris at the Office of Management and Budget.

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